ATLAS

ASTONISHING

DEC.

TERROR TALES IN THE NIGHT!

NO. 28

Astonishing

10

"DEATH WHERE IS THY STING!"

"THE END OF THE WORLD!"

"THE HIDDEN PLANET!"

YOU CAN'T ACCUSE ME OF MURDER IF YOU CAN'T *FIND* ME!

HE--HE'S *VANISHING* RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

"NO EVIDENCE!"

Build a Fine BIG MONEY JACKET and SHOE BUSINESS!

Big Spare-Time or Full-Time Profits Easy with Fast-Selling MASON Products!

Rush Coupon for FREE Selling Outfit!

Here's your chance to start a highly profitable repeat-order business . . . without investing a penny! Yes, under the famous Mason Extra Money Plan you are your own boss, and have the opportunity to make up to $10 and more in a day EXTRA income just in spare time—much *more* for full time!

As the Mason Man in your community, you feature Mason's fast-selling warm leather jackets of Horsehide, Capeskin, Suede, other quality leathers that are known coast-to-coast for smart styling, genuine warm sheepskin linings, and rugged wear. You also take orders for popular television-advertised Mason Velvet-eez Air-cushioned shoes that are so famous for special comfort features. Start by selling to friends, relatives, people where you work. Think of all the outdoor workers around your home who will be delighted to buy these wonderful jackets and shoes direct from you. You'll be amazed how quickly business grows! And no wonder!—you offer these splendid products at prices people can afford, and because Mason jackets and shoes are not available in stores . . . people in your community must keep coming back to buy from YOU! It's easy to see why the Mason Extra Money Plan can bring up to $200 and more *extra* income a month and real security!

DOUBLE PROFITS with special 2 in 1 Combination Sales!

Working Men Want This! Warm Sheepskin for both Body and Feet!

What an easy way to make two sales at one time and earn all the extra money you need! Just show these special Mason combinations that keep you really warm: smart, rugged jacket of long-wearing Horsehide leather, lined with woolly fleece . . . and to match, Mason's top-quality work shoe also lined with genuine Sheepskin, with such *extra* features as Velvet-eez Air-Cushioned innersoles that let you walk on air all day long—Dupont Neoprene oil-resisting soles and heels and leather storm welt! What perfect cold-weather combinations—the practical way to keep *both* your body and feet warm! Think of the hundreds of people in your own community who will buy these unique combinations from you—truck drivers, milkmen, cab drivers, postmen, gas station men, construction men, railroad men—so *many* who will readily fill your pockets with dollars!

Besides jackets of long-lasting Pony Horsehide leather, fine Capeskin leather and soft, luxurious Suede, you can take orders for Nylon, Gabardine, 100% Wool, Satin-faced Twill jackets, men's raincoats, too! And just look at these EXTRA features that make Mason jackets so easy to sell: Warm, cozy linings of real Sheepskin . . . nature's own protection against cold!—Quilted and Rayon linings!—Laskin Lamb waterproof, non-matting fur collars!—Knitted Wristlets!—Especially treated leathers that do not scuff or peel!—Zipper fronts!—Extra-large pockets!—Variety of colors for every taste: brown, black, green, grey, tan, blue! No wonder it's easy to satisfy any taste and make DOUBLE PROFITS!

Get Started NOW—Send For FREE Jacket & Shoe Outfit!

As soon as I receive your coupon, I'm going to rush you your powerful Free Selling Outfit. This means you will have in your hands a superb chance to make money with a fine collection of warm jackets and you will be featuring over 160 different shoe styles for men and women . . . dress shoes, sporty casuals, work shoes with wonderful Velvet-eez Air-Cushion innersoles and other special features. You actually feature more shoes in a greater range of sizes and widths than the largest store in your town! You don't have to substitute—it's easy to fit customers in the style, size and width they order! I will also supply you with a 10-second Air Cushion demonstrator, and EVERYTHING you will need to make *big money* from the very first hour! Don't delay—take advantage of this unusual opportunity immediately. Rush your coupon TODAY!

MASON SHOE MFG. CO.
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISC.
DEPT. MA-45

SEND FOR *FREE* OUTFIT!

Mr. Mod Mason, Dept. MA-45
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co.
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

You bet I want to build a fine BIG MONEY Jacket and Shoe Business! Please rush my Free Selling Outfit that features Mason's fast-selling Leather Jackets, Velvet-eez Air Cushion shoes, other easy-to-sell specialties . . . and includes EVERYTHING I need to start building profits from the FIRST hour!

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____

ASTONISHING is published by 20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP. Office of Publication: 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Entered as second class matter at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Canton, Ohio. Published bi-monthly. Copyright 1953 by 20TH CENTURY COMIC CORP., 270 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. Vol. 1, No. 28, December 1953 issue. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. Monroe Froehlich, Jr., Business Manager

READY FOR A DELIGHTFUL DIET OF TERRIFYING TIDBITS? GOOD! CAST YOUR PEEPERS ON ROGER... THIS CREEP FINDS HIMSELF A WIFE IN A MOST AMAZING WAY... BUT OUR BOY IS IN FOR EVEN MORE SURPRISES! THE GAL WILL MAKE HIM WISH HE *STAYED* ON *TERRA FIRMA!*

AGE BEFORE BEAUTY

LADY-KILLER ROGER DEAN FEARED JUST ONE THING IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE...OLD AGE! SO ROGER FOUGHT THE ONRUSHING YEARS WITH DIET AND EXERCISE! BUT WHEN A SHIP IS FLASHING THRU UNCHARTED SPACE, IT IS NO TIME TO BE DOING DEEP KNEE BENDS!

I TOLD YOU ***NOT*** TO USE THE AUTOMATIC PILOT! GET BACK AT THE CONTROLS! THIS AREA IS CLUTTERED WITH ***SPACE DEBRIS!*** YOU'LL KILL US ALL WORRYING ABOUT YOUR ***WAISTLINE!*** NOW STAY ON THE JOB...***UNDERSTAND!***

YES, COMMANDER CLEEG! I'LL SEE THAT WE DON'T COLLIDE WITH ANYTHING!

THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ***ASTONISHING*** STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

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COMMANDER CLEEG WADDLED ANGRILY OUT OF THE X-22'S CONTROL CABIN! THE INSTANT HE SLAMMED THE DOOR...

PURE JEALOUSY! CLEEG HATES ME FOR LOOKING YOUNGER THAN HIM, EVEN THOUGH I'M SIX YEARS ***OLDER!*** I'LL NEVER BE A FAT SLOB LIKE HIM! I'LL PUT THE SHIP BACK ON AUTOMATIC PILOT...

ROGER'S HEALTH RITUAL HAD MADE HIM THE ENVY OF THE SPACE CORPS! AT 45, HE STILL HAD THE SNAP AND VITALITY OF YOUTH...

NO WONDER THE GIRLS STILL FIND ME HANDSOME! I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN EXCELLENT CARE OF MYSELF! IT'S STUPID TO GROW ***OLD*** BEFORE YOUR TIME! A MAN'S ONLY AS OLD AS HE ***FEELS***...AND I FEEL VERY ***YOUNG!***

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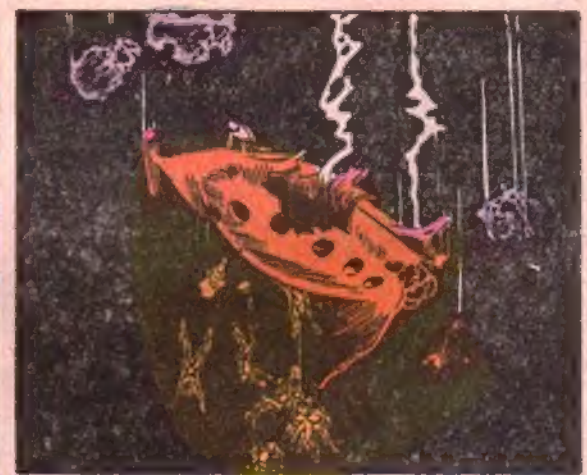
BUT AS ROGER EXERCISED AND DREAMED OF ETERNAL YOUTH, THE X-22, GUIDED BY THE UNSEEING AUTOMATIC PILOT, HEADED STRAIGHT FOR A HUGE CHUNK OF SPACE DEBRIS!

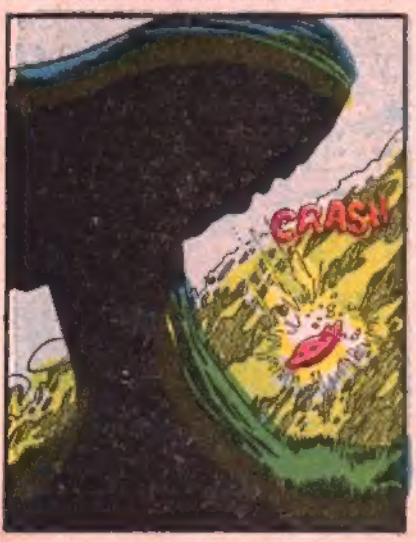
THEN, AS THE RADAR ALARM SUDDENLY ACTIVATED THE EMERGENCY SIREN...

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! ROGER DEAN WRENCHED AT THE CONTROLS, AS THE SILENT SPACE TRAVELER RIPPED OPEN THE X-22 LIKE A TIN CAN!

DOWN...DOWN...THE X-22 PLUMMETED, HURLING EQUIPMENT AND MEN FROM ITS GASHED HULL LIKE SO MUCH SCREAMING CONFETTI...



FOR MILES THE BATTERED SHIP FELL THRU SPACE, TILL AT LAST IT ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE OF A STRANGE PLANET AND CRASHED ON A HILLSIDE!



IT WAS DAYS BEFORE ROGER AWOKE AND WHEN HE DID...

WHERE AM I? THE OTHERS.. ARE THEY..?
YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL ON THE PLANET ROXX! MY NAME IS ZARA! YOUR COMPANIONS ARE DEAD! TRY TO SLEEP...YOU ARE IN GOOD HANDS!

I SURE AM IN GOOD HANDS! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, ZARA! I THINK I'M GOING TO ENJOY LIFE ON THE PLANET ROXX!
WHEN THEY BROUGHT YOU INTO THE HOSPITAL, I ASKED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO TAKE CARE OF YOU! NOW TRY TO SLEEP!

BECAUSE OF HIS EXCELLENT HEALTH, ROGER HEALED RAPIDLY AND HIS SUAVE HANDSOMENESS SOON HAD ZARA FAWNING ABOUT HIS BED LIKE A PUPPY..

THESE FLOWERS WILL BRIGHTEN YOUR ROOM, ROGER! IT'S ALL RIGHT IF I CALL YOU ROGER, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE, ZARA! COME HERE AND HELP ME...I'M GOING TO TRY WALKING!

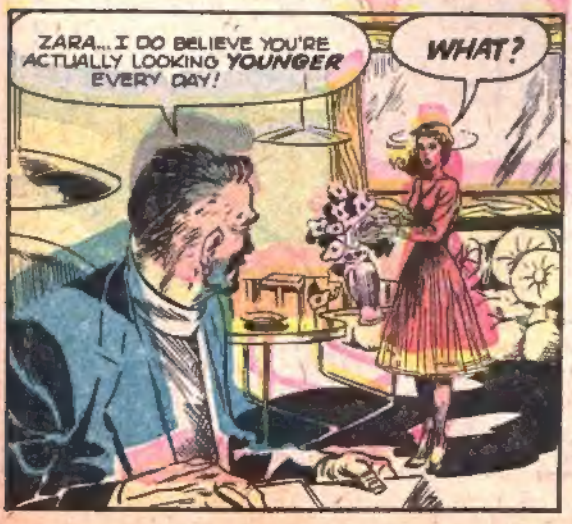
BUT AS ROGER TOOK HIS FIRST STEP, HIS FOOT SEEMED TO SLIP UNACCOUNTABLY...

AGE DOESN'T MATTER, ZARA!
SHE'S YOUNG! WHEN WE'RE SEEN TOGETHER, IT WILL MAKE ME LOOK YOUNG, TOO! WHY SHOULD I OBJECT?
IT'S SETTLED! WE'LL BE MARRIED IMMEDIATELY!

AND SO ROGER MARRIED ZARA OF THE PLANET ROXX! FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS ROGER WAS VERY HAPPY, THOUGH AT TIMES, ZARA SEEMED STRANGE IN A WAY THAT ROGER COULDN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT...

YOU'VE MADE ME VERY HAPPY, ZARA! I WOULDN'T RETURN TO EARTH, EVEN IF I COULD! YOU'RE SO YOUNG... ALMOST LIKE THOSE CHILDREN...
DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN! ISN'T IT BAD ENOUGH THAT I KNOW!

THEN, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, ROGER MADE AN AMAZING OBSERVATION...



DARLING! I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU! YOU LOOK LOVELY.. RADIANT! WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T YOU TELL ME?
WHAT'S THE USE OF COMPLAINING! WHAT MUST BE... MUST BE!

ROGER DEAN STAYED UP LATE THAT NIGHT... HE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD AND REACHED A DECISION...

IT'S THIS PLANET! I WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING TO ZARA... IT'S *ME* WHO'S CHANGING! I'M STARTING TO SHOW MY *AGE!*

SO THE NEXT MORNING HE STARTED EXERCISING HARDER THAN EVER...

AREN'T YOU OVERDOING IT, ROGER? AND YOU DIDN'T EAT A THING FOR BREAKFAST, EITHER!

NEVER MIND! I MUST HAVE PLENTY OF EXERCISE TO STAY *YOUNG!* FAT MAKES YOU LOOK *OLD!*

MUST YOU KEEP SAYING YOU'VE GOT TO BE YOUNG... *YOUNG!* YOU'LL DRIVE ME INSANE! I DON'T THINK IT'S *FUNNY*, AT ALL!

I'M NOT TRYING TO BE FUNNY, ZARA! I MEAN IT! I WANT TO BE YOUNG... *ALWAYS!*

YOU'RE *IMPOSSIBLE!* WHEN YOUR SHIP CRASHED, IT MUST HAVE INJURED YOUR BRAIN!

I DON'T GET IT! EVERY TIME I TELL HER I WANT TO STAY YOUNG, SHE FLIES INTO A RAGE!

THREE MONTHS LATER ROGER WAS CERTAIN SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG...

THOSE ARE NEW UNIFORMS, AREN'T THEY! YOU'RE TOO SMALL TO FIT INTO YOUR OLD ONES! TELL ME THE TRUTH, ZARA... YOU'RE GROWING YOUNGER, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT OF IT? YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T OBJECT TO MY *AGE* WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO MARRY YOU!

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WERE A NIGHTMARE FOR ROGER DEAN! ZARA WAS GROWING YOUNGER EVERY DAY, AND AT AN INCREASING RATE...

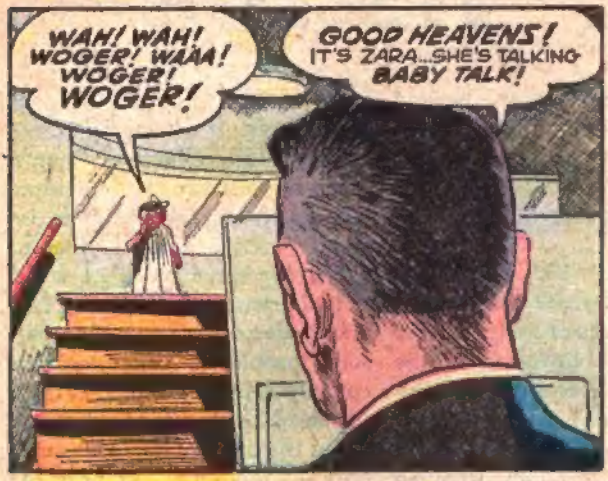
IT'S AMAZING! ZARA LOOKS ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS OLD! IT'S GETTING EMBARRASSING... SHE HAS THE MIND OF AN ADULT... AND THE BODY OF A CHILD!

AS THE DAYS WENT ON, ROGER DIDN'T DARE VENTURE OUT INTO PUBLIC WITH HIS WIFE!

YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN ME *ANYWHERE* FOR MONTHS, ROGER! ARE YOU *ASHAMED* OF ME?

IT ISN'T THAT... IT'S JUST THAT I'M NOT FEELING WELL!

THE MONTHS DRAGGED BY, AND ROGER KEPT HOPING HIS WIFE WOULD SOMEHOW RETURN TO HER NORMAL SELF, BUT THEN ONE NIGHT, WHEN HE CAME HOME LATE...



SO ROGER RUSHED HER TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL! AND THE DOCTOR GAVE HIM SOME SHOCKING NEWS...

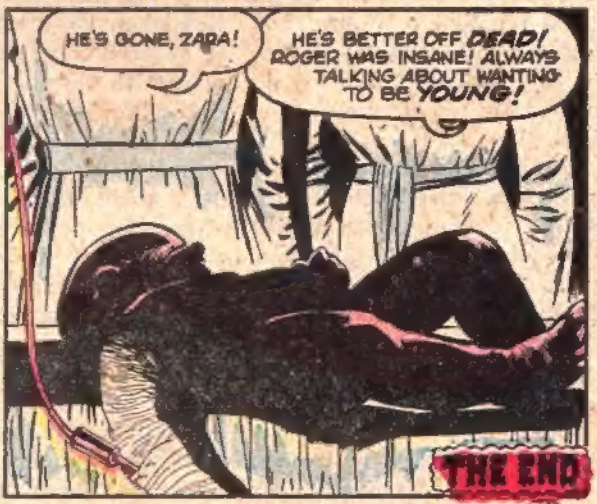
IN A FEW MINUTES ROGER WAS TIGHTLY STRAPPED IN A BED BESIDE HIS BABBLING WIFE...

WORKING RAPIDLY, THE DOCTOR PLUNGED A CONNECTING TUBE INTO THE ARMS OF ZARA AND ROGER AND THE TRANSFUSION WAS STARTED...

ROGER WAS TOO SHOCKED TO STRUGGLE! NUMBLY HE LISTENED TO THE DOCTOR DRONE OFF THE YEARS AND HE WATCHED GRIMLY AS ZARA CHANGED...

WHEN THE DOCTOR REACHED FORTY-SIX, HE STOPPED COUNTING AND ZARA GOT UP! THE TRANSFUSION WAS FINISHED...

THEN, ZARA AND THE DOCTOR LOOKED DOWN AT THE DEAD PREMATURE INFANT THAT WAS ROGER DEAN!



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

STRANGE VISITOR

IT was the sweetest racket Leopold Loti had ever worked out. He was surprised at first how many people were stupidly gullible and paid him good money to contact their departed relatives in the next world! Yes, Leopold was a medium, a spiritualist with a lot of clients, and as crooked as they come! He knew all the tricks of the trade and was smart enough to put on a good act for the benefit of his audience at his seances. All it really required was a bit of trembling and moaning and a disguised voice; that was when his intermediary from the next world was supposedly speaking to the assembled clients. This character from the shadows called himself Xenophon, according to Loti, and he gave the answers to all problems of the customers, as well as delivered messages from the dead.

Yes, Loti had made up an intermediary named Xenophon, supposedly an ancient Greek character who was receptive to the calling of the medium. So, as was his custom, one night, Loti prepared the phony props, the gauze "ghosts", the ringing bells and table knocks . . . the clients were due in a short time. Loti sat in his chair, waiting for the "suckers" to arrive. He suddenly felt a bit drowsy and rested his head on the table before him and closed his eyes. It was then that he heard that distinct voice speaking to him from somewhere in the room. It was the familiar voice of Xenophon! But Loti himself was *not* uttering a sound . . . *not* imitating the voice of his intermediary with the beyond!

And this is what the voice was saying: "You have been using my name, spiritualist! But you did not know that there is a *real* Xenophon in the beyond . . . it is *I!* You have called upon my services so often, that I am finally forced to answer your call and serve you as intermediary!"

Loti lifted his head and opened his eyes. He was amazed to see the spectral image of the ancient Greek hovering in the air at the other end of the semi-darkened room! So there really was a Xenophon! And Loti's powers as a medium were so strong, that he had actually called a spirit from the next world!

"So *you* are Xenophon, a shade from the land of the dead!" Loti said. "Then you shall serve me, my friend, as long as I have need of your services! Is it not true that a spirit *must* come forth when summoned by a powerful medium?"

Xenophon admitted that this was so. That was all Loti wanted to know! He would reap a fortune, giving out advice to anyone who sought it through contact with the beyond. And who would dare to call him a phony medium now? Why, Leopold Loti really *did* have his own private spirit! Loti told Xenophon to disappear for a while until it was time for the seance to begin. Then Loti would go into his usual routine, and this time the spirit would make a real appearance . . . no more phony gauze to represent a spectral figure in the dark room. And Xenophon would speak directly to the clients and bring any messages from the land of the dead which these customers might demand. Xenophon agreed to all this, and disappeared.

Within an hour, Loti's usual customers were present. The lights were dimmed, and the seance began. Loti still had to go into his act of trembling and faking those moaning sounds. Then he called forth Xenophon. The spirit appeared almost instantly. Each person present asked for some word of a departed friend or relative . . . or asked advice on finances or personal problems, Xenophon successfuly delivered messages from the dead to these people seated about the round table. Of course only Xenophon could hear the voices of his dead companions, but as their intermediary, he could deliver their words aloud.

As for advice on personal problems, Xenophon always hesitated a few moments before uttering his answers. This was because he had to consult with sages of the beyond, long dead, who would have the answer to these worldly problems and had to convey their advice to the ears of Xenophon, who in turn spoke aloud for the benefit of the eagerly attentive client of the delighted spiritualist. When the seance was ended that evening, they all agreed that it was the most exciting and most successful Loti had ever conducted. The wealthy old Amelia Prentiss was especially impressed, and she asked Loti for a private seance for the next evening. She had an important question to ask Xenophon, but she didn't want anyone else present except Loti. She revealed to the medium that she wanted Xenophon's advice on the disposition of her fortune. That was all the greedy medium had to hear!

After all the clients had left, Loti returned to the seance room. He was surprised to find Xenophon still hanging around. The spirit had a favor to ask. He asked Loti *not* to use him as an intermediary with the dead

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

$15.20 an hour!

This is the average earning reported by Presto salesman WM. F. WYDALLIS. "The sky's the limit" on Presto profits because of America's serious need for this new fire extinguishing discovery.

WOULDN'T YOU like to be making the kind of money William F. Wydallis is making? His story (printed at right) is just one example of the brilliant success that Presto salesmen are meeting everywhere! A Florida salesman earned $600 in one month. An Ohio man earned $2100 in 2 months. A new York salesman earned $1500 in one month. A New Hampshire salesman added the Presto as a *sideline* and picked up an extra $1800 in 20 months.

Almost Two Million Already Sold!

PRESTO contains an amazing new chemical "Chlorobromomethane" or "C.B." developed as a secret defense against fire during the war.

In comparing the effectiveness of "C.B." in fighting various kinds of fires an authoritative testing laboratory states: "It has been proved that *'C.B.' is about 1.5 to 6 times as effective as other common extinguishing agents on an equal weight basis.*"

This extra effectiveness of "C.B." means that Presto can be made light and handy enough for even a woman or child to use. Just a twist of the knob . . . and flames disappear! "Sells on sight" to civil defense workers, owners of homes, cars, stores, farms, service stations, boats, motorcycles, factories, offices and to stores for re-sale.

Advertised in LIFE Magazine

Everyone is terrified at the *very thought of FIRE! Every year* fire kills more than 11,000 people. Most people who see Presto in action want one or more—ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PRICE IS ONLY $3.98 EACH!

You can demonstrate Presto in a few minutes, and every sale will net you $1 or more. We refill your demonstrator free . . . and we give you dramatically powerful printed sales material to "talk from" . . . free certificates testifying that Presto is GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS.

YOU DON'T NEED TO INVEST A PENNY. Just collect and *keep* $1 or more every time you write an order—we collect the balance and deliver the extinguisher. (Or if you *wish*, you can buy from us at extra-low wholesale prices and then make up to $2.18 profit per unit supplying both dealers and retail customers — we'll send you free details.)

Start Now-Mail Coupon

Get started in this rich new field now. Don't "put it off"! Every day you hesitate may cost you $10, $15, or even $50 you could otherwise be making. Mail the coupon at right NOW for everything you need to get started right away!

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, Inc., Dept. 12111 201 East 16th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

Best Selling Months Just Ahead! Don't Delay — Mail coupon Now!

Only Presto Has All These Features!

- Ends Fire as Fast as 2 Seconds
- Chemical Contents 1.5 to 6 Times More Effective than Others on an Equal Weight Basis
- Weighs Less Than 1 Lb.
- Easily Held in One Hand—Even by a Child
- Needs No Inspection or Re-Charging — Does Not Corrode or Deteriorate
- Costs Only $3.98—Yet Out-Performs Bulky Extinguishers Costing Several Times as Much
- Automatic Pressure — No Pumping
- Guaranteed for 20 Years—Certificate is Packed with Every Presto

WILLIAM F. WYDALLIS

"Most specialty salesmen are always on the lookout for a 'natural.' The 'natural' of this decade is the PRESTO FIRE EXTINGUISHER . . . because it is handy in size, simple to operate, and is the right price range.

"For every hour I have devoted to the Presto, I find that I have earned an average of $15.20 an hour. I am now convinced that extraordinary money can be made in this safety field. I am devoting more of my time to this product now since I have discovered that the earnings on this item are greater than any item I have handled in the past."

—William F. Wydallis Van Wert, Ohio

CHARLES KAMA

This Presto salesman from Texas was featured at "Salesman of the Month" on the front cover of a sales magazine. He told the magazine's reporter:

"I think I've succeeded pretty well. I'm making more than a thousand dollars a month—and I haven't touched bottom yet."

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, Inc., Dept. 12111
201 East 16th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

Please send me illustrated sales literature, liberal profit plan, order blanks—everything I need to get started making good money introducing the Presto Fire Extinguisher in my locality.

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU WISH TO ORDER A REGULAR PRESTO TO BE USED AS A DEMONSTRATOR ($2.50). Pays for itself many times over in increased sales. Can be returned as often as you like for FREE re-fill. You needn't enclose any money now—we'll send Demonstrator C.O.D. (Or if you wish to save money, enclose $2.50 and we'll pay postage.)

☐ If under 18 years of age, check here for Booklet A.

Name_____

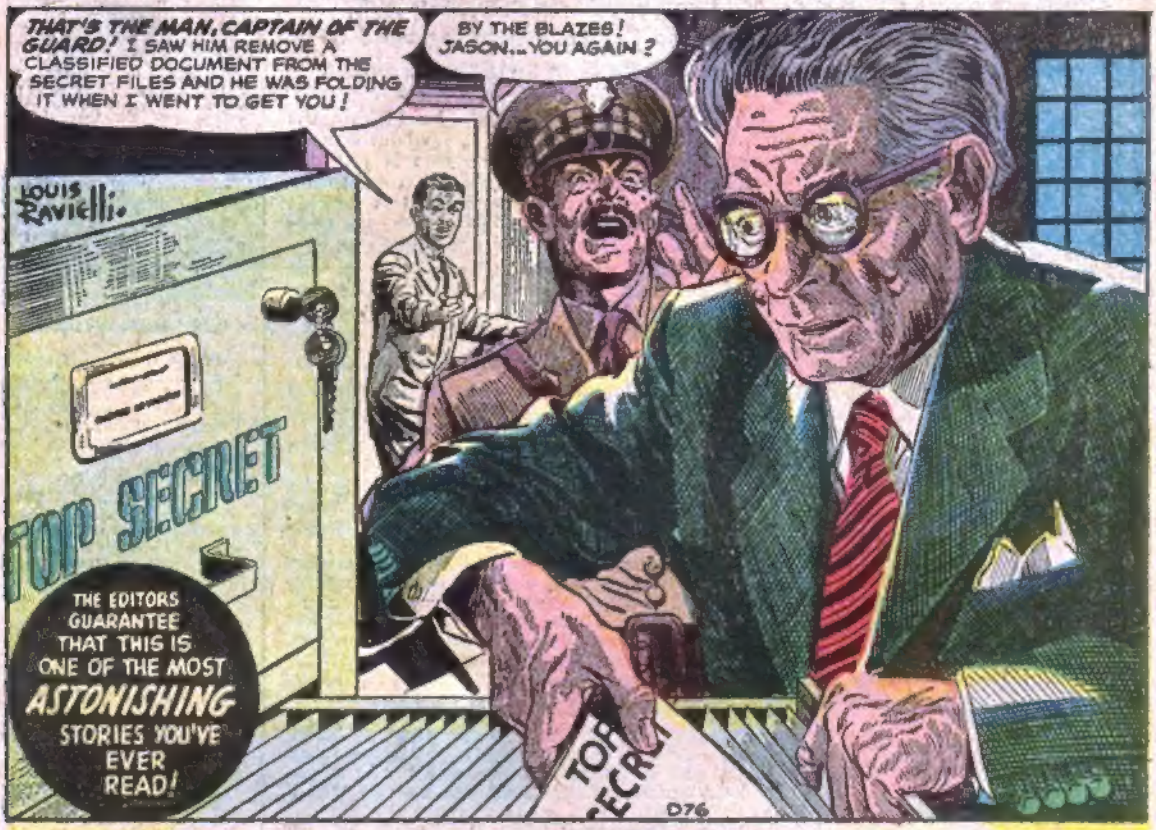
Address_____

City_____ Zone No. (if any)____ State_____

IN CANADA: Mapa Co., Ltd., 371 Dewd Street, Montreal 1, P.Q.

WELL, ROGER WANTED TO BE *YOUNG*, BUT THE DOC SEEMS TO HAVE *OVERDONE* IT, EH? HERE'S ANOTHER GUY WHO WANTS SOMETHING REAL BAD, AND WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET IT! BUT JASON MAKES *ONE* LITTLE MISTAKE, AND THAT'S ALL, BROTHER!

NO EVIDENCE


THAT'S THE MAN, CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD! I SAW HIM REMOVE A CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT FROM THE SECRET FILES AND HE WAS FOLDING IT WHEN I WENT TO GET YOU!
BY THE BLAZES! JASON...YOU AGAIN?
LOUIS RAVIELLI
TOP SECRET
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!
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ARE YOU SURE, MARVIN? MASON'S A FILING CLERK AND HE'S BEEN ACCUSED OF THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE, BUT A SEARCH ALWAYS REVEALED... *NO EVIDENCE!*
A DOCUMENT *IS* MISSING FROM THIS FOLDER! SEARCH HIM AND I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT ON HIM!

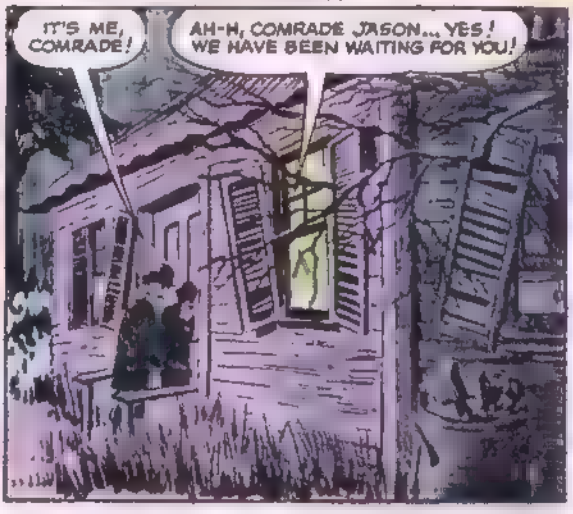
I'LL HAVE TO FRISK YOU, JASON! TOO MANY DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARING AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE ANY POSSIBLE CLUE!
I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN! GO AHEAD AND SEARCH ME... BUT ONCE AGAIN YOU'LL FIND *NO EVIDENCE!*

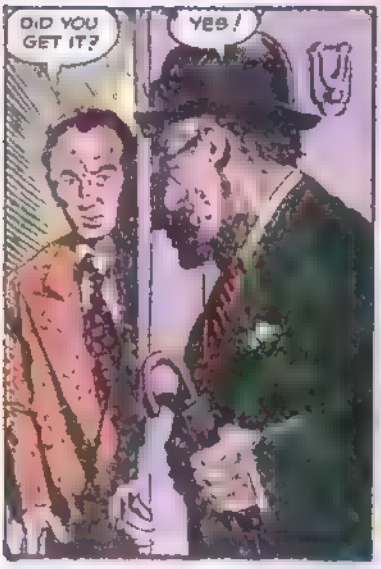
AND A HALF-HOUR LATER...

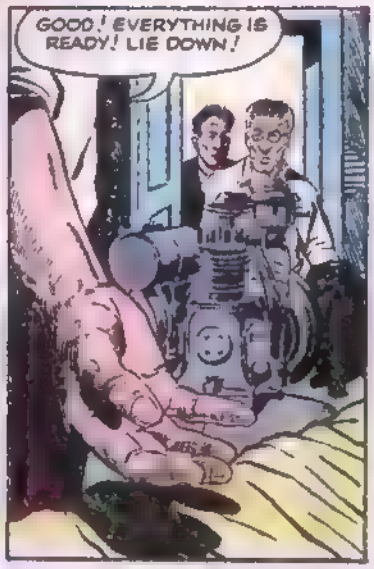
HE'S RIGHT, MARVIN! I'VE SEARCHED EVERY STITCH OF HIS CLOTHING... AND THE MISSING DOCUMENT ISN'T ANYWHERE ON HIM!
BUT IT *HAS* TO BE, CAPT.! I *SAW* HIM TAKE IT!
YOU HEARD HIM, MARVIN... *NO EVIDENCE!*

NO EVIDENCE... THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS EVERY TIME JASON WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING SECRET DOCUMENTS... AND WHEN HE LEFT THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT QUITTING TIME, HE HAD GOOD REASON TO LAUGH TO HIMSELF...

AN HOUR LATER, JASON WAS IN THE SLUMS OF LONDON KNOCKING IN CODE ON A DOOR OF ONE OF THE DIRTY SHACKS...

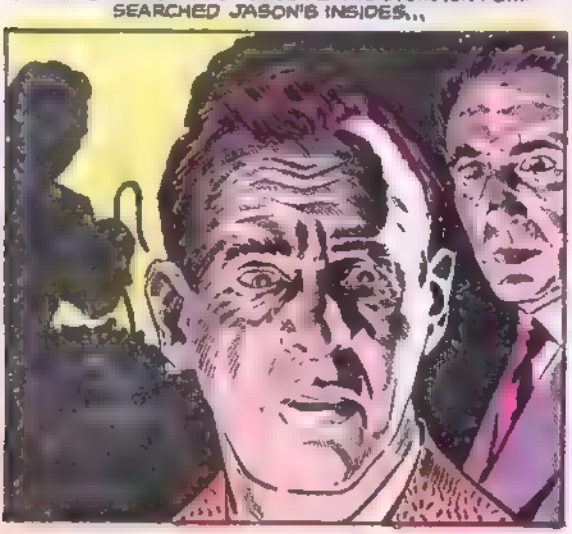




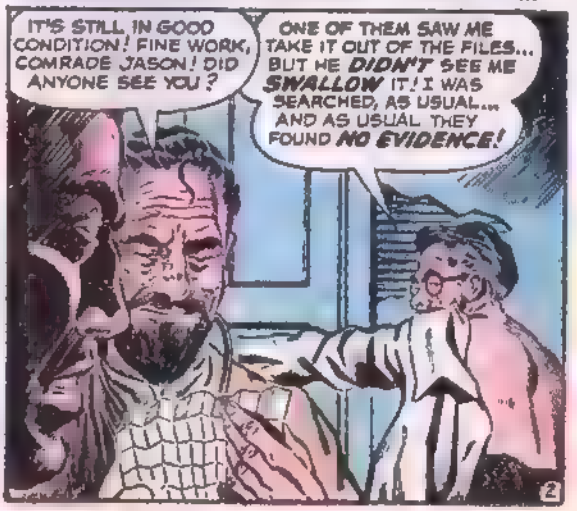


JASON STRETCHED OUT ON THE TABLE AND A TUBE WAS PUT INTO HIS MOUTH... A TUBE WHICH REACHED DOWN INTO HIS STOMACH...

THEN A SMALL MOTOR STARTED TO HUM... AND ALL THE COMMIES WAITED IN SILENCE AS THE STOMACH PUMP SEARCHED JASON'S INSIDES...



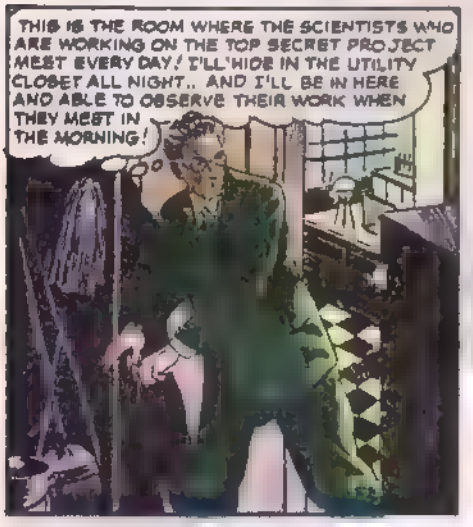
A FEW MINUTES LATER, A WET, FOLDED PIECE OF PAPER WAS SUCKED OUT OF JASON'S STOMACH... AND THE COMMIES EXAMINED IT WITH GREAT SATISFACTION...


IT'S STILL IN GOOD CONDITION! FINE WORK, COMRADE JASON! DID ANYONE SEE YOU?
ONE OF THEM SAW ME TAKE IT OUT OF THE FILES... BUT HE ***DIDN'T*** SEE ME ***SWALLOW*** IT! I WAS SEARCHED, AS USUAL... AND AS USUAL THEY FOUND ***NO EVIDENCE!***

AS A REWARD, COMRADE JASON, I AM GOING TO ASSIGN YOU TO [redacted] MOST IMPORTANT MISSION!
YOU MEAN THE TOP SECRET PROJECT WHICH THE ENGLISH SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING ON IN THE SAME BUILDING WHERE I WORK?

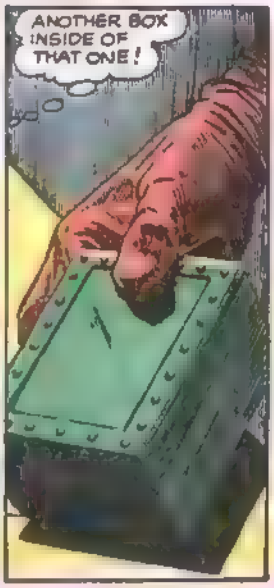
DA! NO OTHER COMMUNIST AGENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET A SHRED OF INFORMATION ABOUT THAT PROJECT! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE WORKING ON!
THIS IS A GREAT HONOR, COMRADE! I WILL NOT FAIL!

A FEW DAYS LATER, JASON HAD HIS PLAN ALL WORKED OUT! WHEN QUITTING TIME CAME, HE DIDN'T LEAVE THE BUILDING...


THIS IS THE ROOM WHERE THE SCIENTISTS WHO ARE WORKING ON THE TOP SECRET PROJECT MEET EVERY DAY! I'LL HIDE IN THE UTILITY CLOSET ALL NIGHT.. AND I'LL BE IN HERE AND ABLE TO OBSERVE THEIR WORK WHEN THEY MEET IN THE MORNING!

JASON HAD HIS LUNCH WITH HIM! HE ATE IT IN THE CLOSET... AND THEN WENT TO SLEEP..

WHEN MORNING CAME, JASON WAS WIDE AWAKE, AND WAITING...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

FAT FOLKS! Your Dream Has Come True!

HOW TO LOSE UGLY FAT Without Dieting-Hunger!

DOCTORS approve and recommend MELTABS because it contains no drugs. The formula is the discovery of a group of doctors associated with one of New York's leading hospitals.

- NO DIET
- NO EXERCISE
- NO "METHODS"
- NO "PLANS"
- NO DRUGS

Here's news of a sensational discovery by a group of doctors, associated with one of New York's leading hospitals. Thousands say it is the "Miracle Way" to lose weight because there are no do's or don'ts . . . no dieting . . . no exercising . . . no massaging . . . no drugs. You can still enjoy eating until satisfied, yet lose as much weight as you wish.

Doctors Developed This Formula After More Than 17 Years of Research

The group of doctors who made this sensational discovery, devoted more than 17 years to obesity research work. During all this time they found . . . as most doctors agree . . . that the safest and surest way to lose weight is to eat less. But, to most overweight people this means a constant craving for food. And, it is that "hungry feeling" that usually makes them cheat on their diets at mealtimes, or in between meals, with the result that they lose no weight, or gain back whatever weight they may have lost.

Doctors Discover How To Stop That "Hungry Feeling"

After more than 17 years of tireless research work, this group of doctors finally discovered a formula that satisfies hunger and stops that "hungry feeling." It comes in the form of a tasty wafer and is called MELTABS. By chewing one (or letting it dissolve in your mouth) before eating, it helps to control overeating, and stops that "hungry feeling" in between mealtimes.

How Meltabs Stops Overeating and Hunger

According to scientific calculations, one Meltabs wafer has the hunger satisfying capacity of 1 lb. boiled potatoes, or 5 slices white bread, or 4 eggs—yet it contains only 5 calories.

Clinical Tests Prove Meltabs Work

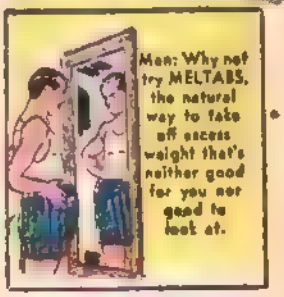
Before MELTABS became available to you, it was clinically-tested on a large number of normal, healthy, but overweight men and women. In making these tests, the doctors instructed the group not to go on any special diet . . . not to cut out certain foods . . . but simply take a MELTABS wafer before each meal. They were told to eat until they felt satisfied . . . that's all.

Clinical Tests Showed Amazing Results

Every member of the group lost from 8 to 20 pounds in a short time. In fact, satisfactory weight losses were seen the very first week. What's more, not one person ever had a single hungry moment, and all said they never felt better. Throughout the clinical tests, the doctors carefully checked the physical condition of each person . . . even to taking electrocardiograms, and found absolutely no ill-effects. All were healthier and happier after losing from 8 to 20 pounds.

Start Losing Your Excess Weight This Proved Safe Way

Here, at last, is the way to reduce safely . . . without dieting . . . without hunger . . . without giving up the foods you like. Now, more than ever before, doctors and insurance companies are warning against overweight. Make up your mind right now to lose excess weight and extra inches this "Miracle Way." Order your 30 day supply of MELTABS for only $3.00 postpaid. MELTABS is backed by a money-back guarantee, so you can lose nothing but weight. If you aren't pleased over the weight you've lost after using one jar, you get your money back. So, clip the coupon and mail it now.



MAIL THIS COUPON NOW!

ROBIN PRODUCTS CO., Dept. MC-3
26 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Send me 30 Day Supply of MELTABS
I enclose $3.00 for postpaid delivery. ☐ Send C.O.D.—
I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges. ☐

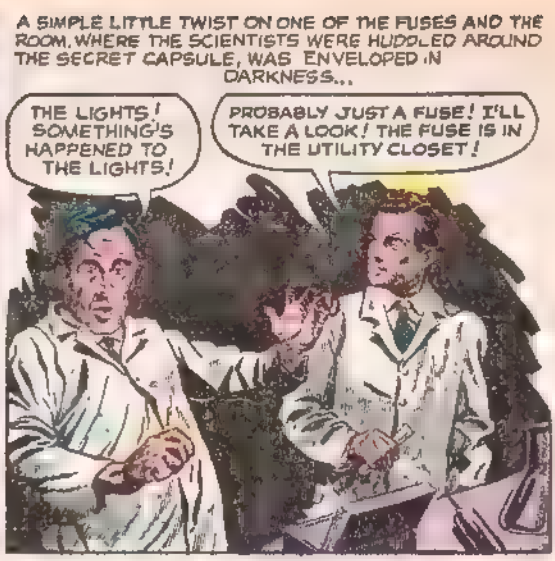
NAME _____

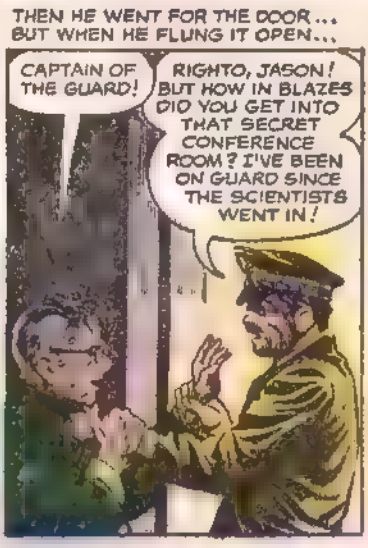
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

Your money back if you don't LOSE WEIGHT

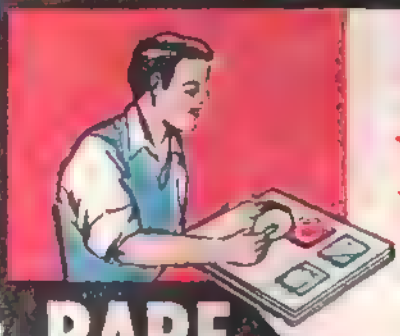
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET ALL THOSE ANSWERS... I'VE GOT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT CAPSULE! AND THIS FUSE BOX GIVES ME AN IDEA HOW TO DO IT!


A SIMPLE LITTLE TWIST ON ONE OF THE FUSES AND THE ROOM, WHERE THE SCIENTISTS WERE HUDDLED AROUND THE SECRET CAPSULE, WAS ENVELOPED IN DARKNESS...
THE LIGHTS! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS!
PROBABLY JUST A FUSE! I'LL TAKE A LOOK! THE FUSE IS IN THE UTILITY CLOSET!


THEN HE WENT FOR THE DOOR... BUT WHEN HE FLUNG IT OPEN...
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD!
RIGHTO, JASON! BUT HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU GET INTO THAT SECRET CONFERENCE ROOM? I'VE BEEN ON GUARD SINCE THE SCIENTISTS WENT IN!

THERE'S NOT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT YOU STOLE THAT CONCENTRATED ATOMIC ENERGY CAPSULE... BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SWALLOWED IT!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS



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(Check one: ☐ 5 for $1.00; ☐ 30 for $5.00.)

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☐ I am enclosing 25¢ for Sample Patch, catalog and article. I can return in 10 days and my money will be refunded.

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(Orders outside U.S.A. add an additional 25¢ to your purchase.)

NO GUTS AT ALL! THAT'S WHAT WE THINK OF THAT SPY! HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT THINGS WOULD BE LIKE JUST BEFORE OUR WORLD CAME TO A HORRIBLE, AWESOME, DEVASTATING END... OR HOW IT MIGHT HAPPEN? THIS WEIRDIE SHOWS YOU ONE TERRIBLE POSSIBILITY!

THE END OF THE WORLD

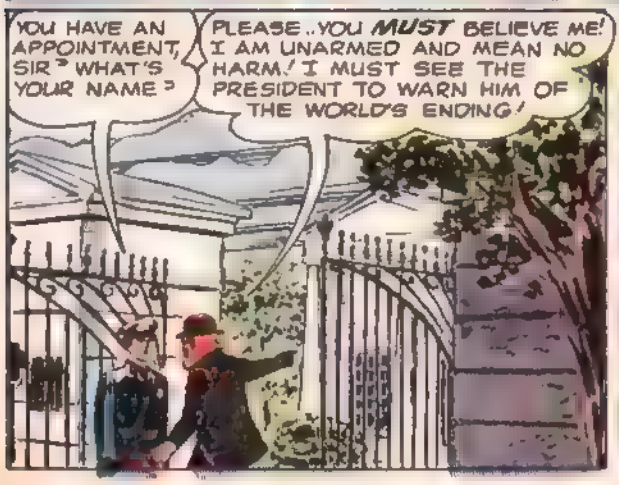
IT IS WRITTEN IN THE ANNALS THAT A MERE FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE WORLD ENDED, A GAUNT-FACED, WILD-EYED MAN RUSHED INTO THE PENTAGON BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ...
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME! PLEASE. YOU AT THE DESK... I MUST SEE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT ONCE!
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!
LISTEN, BUB... THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN WASHINGTON BUSIER THAN THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE... AND THAT'S THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF! YOU GOT AS MUCH CHANCE OF SEEING THE SECRETARY WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT AS I GOT OF WINNING THE ATLANTIC CITY BATHING BEAUTY CONTEST!
BUT I MUST TELL HIM...
THAT THERE ARE ONLY FOUR HOURS LEFT TILL THE END OF THE WORLD!

RISING FROM BEHIND HIS DESK, THE RECEPTIONIST EXCHANGED A KNOWING GLANCE WITH THE OTHER SOLDIER, AND SPOKE SOOTHINGLY TO THE WILD-EYED MAN ..

WE'RE GONNA DO BETTER THAN THAT!
I WAS WRONG WHEN I READ DISBELIEF IN YOUR EYES! I HAVE GONE EVERYWHERE, TRYING TO SPREAD THE ALARM.. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE WOULD LISTEN!
MP

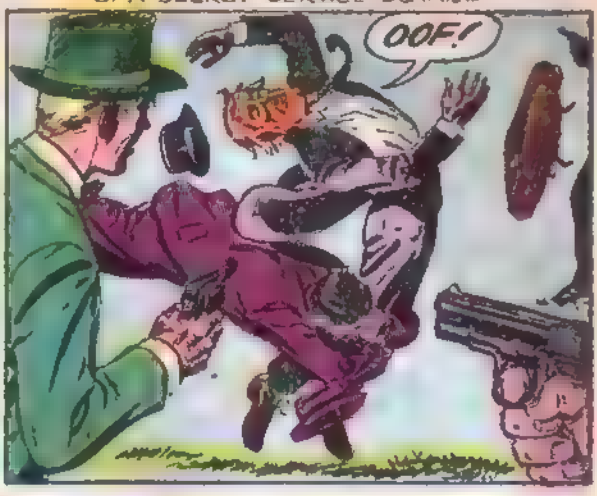
BUT THEN THE WILD-EYED MAN SAW THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO THE END OF THE TRAIL OF DISBELIEF..

SOBBING FRENZIEDLY NOW, THE WILD-EYED MAN RAN THRU THE STREETS OF THE CAPITAL...


YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, SIR? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
PLEASE.. YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! I AM UNARMED AND MEAN NO HARM! I MUST SEE THE PRESIDENT TO WARN HIM OF THE WORLD'S ENDING!

THE WILD-EYED MAN RAN PAST THE UNCONSCIOUS GUARD AND ACROSS THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN! AS HE RAN, HE SCREAMED.

BUT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WAS WELL GUARDED BY A SECRET SERVICE DETAIL..

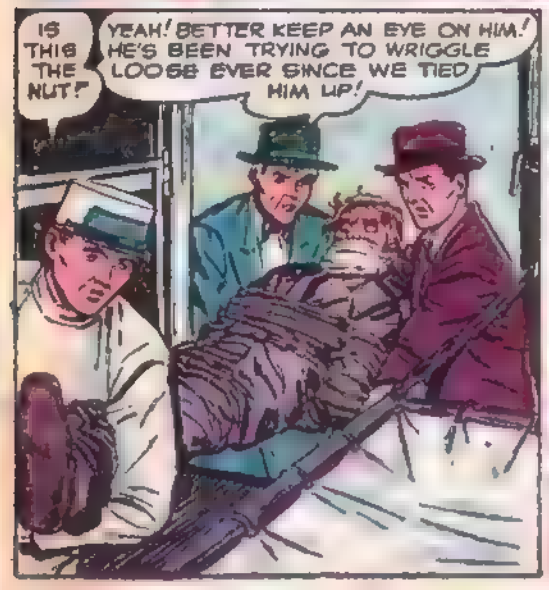


A GAG WAS QUICKLY SLIPPED OVER THE INTERLOPER'S MOUTH...

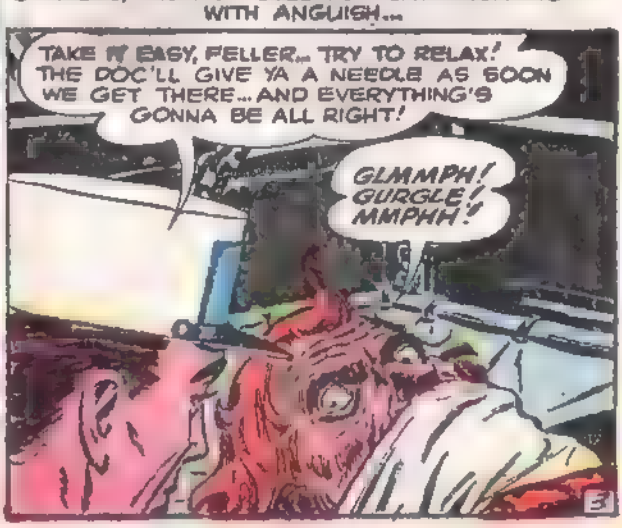
HIS HANDS AND LEGS WERE BOUND SECURELY...

A TELEPHONE CALL WAS MADE...

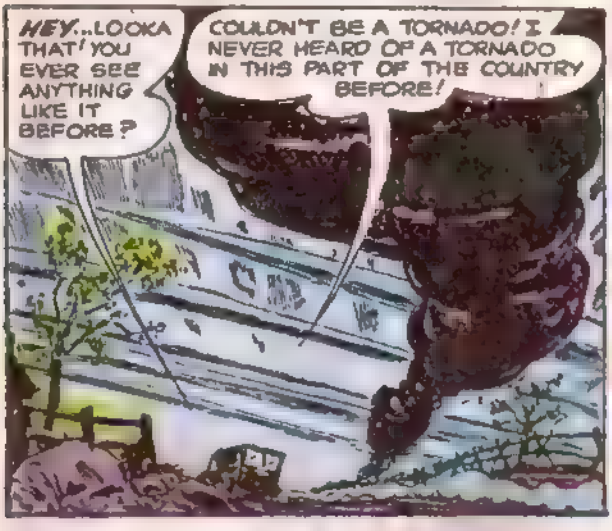
AND IN LESS THAN TWENTY MINUTES.. THE WORLD HAD A LITTLE MORE THAN THREE HOURS LEFT NOW. THE VAN PULLED UP TO THE WHITE HOUSE ..



AS THE VAN RODE SMOOTHLY THRU THE DOOMED STREETS, THE WILD-EYED MAN LAY SWEATING WITH ANGUISH...


TAKE IT EASY, FELLER... TRY TO RELAX! THE DOC'LL GIVE YA A NEEDLE AS SOON WE GET THERE... AND EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
GLMMPH! GURGLE! MMPHH!

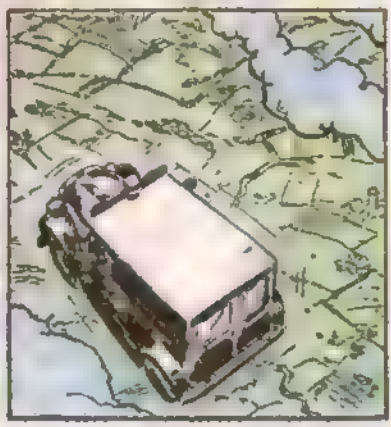
THE VAN'S SPEED INCREASED WHEN IT REACHED A LONELY STRETCH OF ROAD! THIRTY-ONE MINUTES HAD PASSED SINCE IT LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND NOW A STRANGE CLOUD WAS WHIRLING ON THE RIM OF THE HORIZON...


HEY...LOOKA THAT! YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE?
COULDN'T BE A TORNADO! I NEVER HEARD OF A TORNADO IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE!

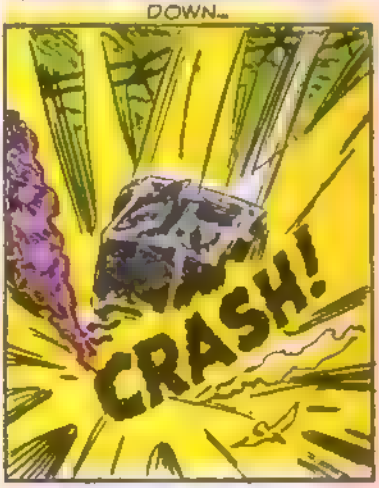
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IT *WAS*... A SPINNING VORTEX OF AGITATED AIR, KNOWN ON EARTH AS A TORNADO...

THE VAN THAT HELD THE WILD-EYED MAN PRISONER WAS BORNE ALOFT BY THE HOWLING WIND...

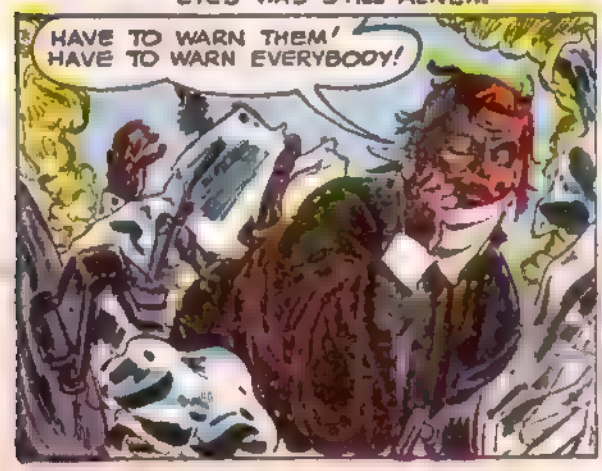
UP. UP. HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE THE PLANET THAT WAS ABOUT TO DIE! FOR A LONG MOMENT THE WIND CAUSED THE VAN TO FLY LIKE A WINGED CREATURE...



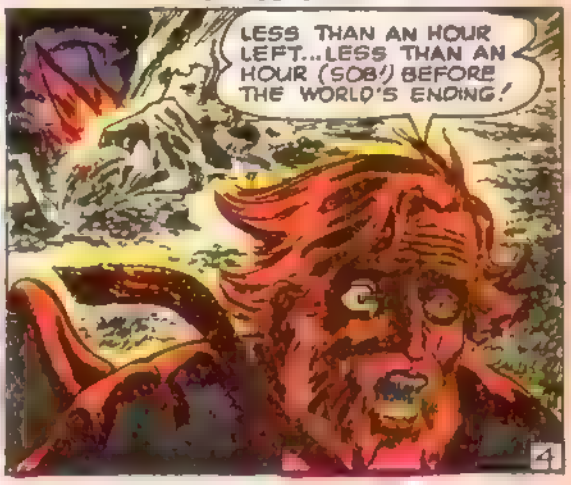
THEN THE WIND SUBSIDED AND THE VAN PLUMMETED DOWN...



AND OF THE DRIVER AND THE TWO ATTENDANTS ONLY A SPLINTERED MANGLE OF FLESH AND BONE WAS LEFT! BUT THE MAN WITH THE WILD EYES WAS STILL ALIVE...



AS HE STUMBLED CLEAR OF THE CRUMPLED VAN, TEARS KEPT STREAMING DOWN FROM HIS WILD EYES...



AT THAT MOMENT, OUR GLORIOUS LEADER MADE HIS APPEARANCE.
NO! NO! AIEEE!
HIS CRIES WERE QUICKLY STIFLED, AND HE WAS DRAWN UP INTO OUR DESTROYER...
I TRIED! I TRIED.. BUT I FAILED!
HEH-HEH-HEH.. THE EARTHLINGS CALLED OUR AIR-CANNON A "TORNADO"
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
YOU KNOW THE LAW COVERING TRAITORS!
I'M GOING TO DIE I KNOW IT! BUT IF I HAD ANOTHER LIFE TO LIVE, I'D TRY AGAIN! THIS HORRIBLE DESTRUCTION OF PLANET AFTER PLANET BENEFITS NO ONE!
THE LENGTHS YOU PACIFISTS GO TO YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS AN EARTHLING SO YOU COULD WARN THE WORLD'S CREATURES THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO DESTROY THEM! DEATH TO ALL TRAITORS!
AARGH!
THE TRAITOR WAS DEAD NOW AND OUR GLORIOUS LEADER PROCEEDED TO ISSUE HIS ORDERS TO THE FLEET...
SOLDIERS OF PLANET GRUBA OF THE OUTER GALAXY... THE TIME HAS COME TO DESTROY THE EARTH! FIRE AT WILL!
BARRROOM!
AND THAT, MY STUDENTS, WINDS UP OUR LECTURE IN ANCIENT HISTORY! I HOPE YOU HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY, BECAUSE TOMORROW THERE'S GOING TO BE A SHORT QUIZ ON THE SUBJECT!

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It's Also ANTI-MAGNETIC

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A sensational bargain! Don't miss it — or you may be too late! You have always wanted a watch with these expensive features. Now you can have them AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD! This accurate, precision-made Window Calendar Chronograph is ideal for the members of our Armed Services, for sportsmen, doctors, photographers, engineers, technicians, executives, etc. And as for gifts . . . it's A PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY OCCASION, such as Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, Holiday, etc. SEND NO MONEY! Simply mail coupon below for 10-Day FREE TRIAL. Do it now, before supply is exhausted!

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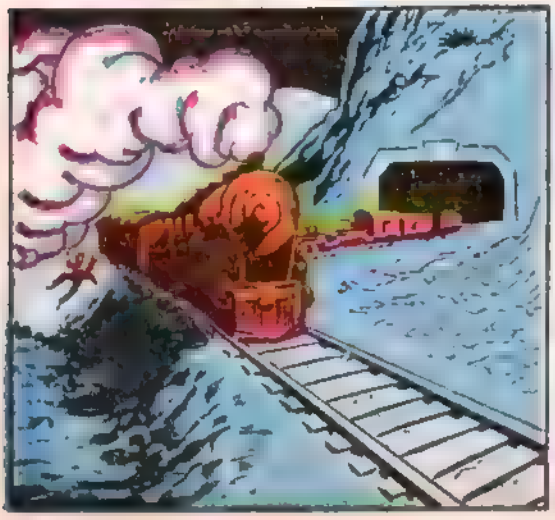
☐ SAVE POSTAGE! Send $9.85 (includes Fed. Tax) and we pay postage. Same 10 Day Free Trial and Money Back Guarantee

SO THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE WARNS YOU ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD BEING NEAR, BE SURE HE ISN'T FROM THE OUTER GALAXY OF PLANETS, BEFORE YOU LAUGH AT HIM! WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS CREEP IS NO LAUGHING MATTER EITHER...EVEN THOUGH THE JOKE'S ON HIM!

DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?

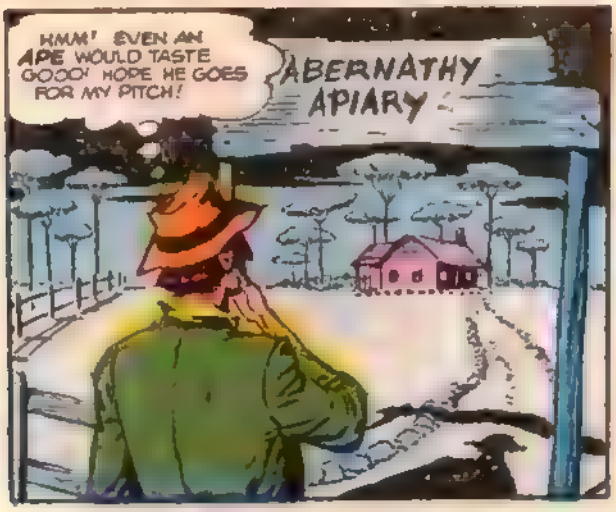
C'MON' C'MON! I CAN'T STAND THIS WAITIN'! GET IT OVER WITH! IT'S DRIVIN' ME MAD!
BZZZZ
ZZZZZ
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!
D132!

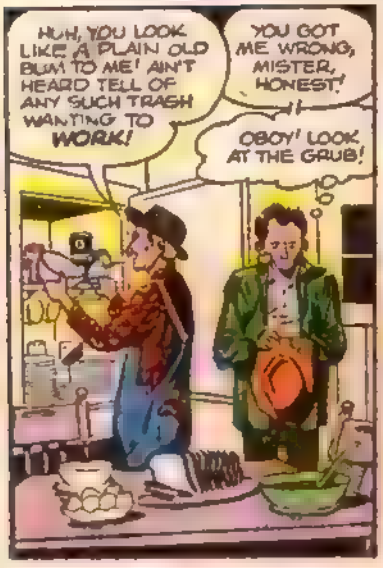
THE FREIGHT SLOWS FOR A CURVE, AND MAX CARVER, A "BINDLE-STIFF" FROM THE OLD SCHOOL, EXPERTLY MAKES HIS DESCENT...



HE'S HUNGRY...REAL HUNGRY.. AS HE PICKS HIMSELF UP FROM THE DITCH AND FINDS A RUTTED COUNTRY ROAD..

FOOTSORE, WEARY, HE STUMBLES ALONG IN THE DARKNESS FOR WHAT SEEMS HOURS ONLY HIS CURSES AND THE GRUMBLING OF A CAVED-IN STOMACH BREAKS THE FORBIDDING SILENCE, THEN...




HUH, YOU LOOK LIKE A PLAIN OLD BUM TO ME! AIN'T HEARD TELL OF ANY SUCH TRASH WANTING TO WORK!
YOU GOT ME WRONG, MISTER, HONEST!
OBOY! LOOK AT THE GRUB!

THE TRAMP IS IN NO SHAPE TO ARGUE ABOUT ANY FINE POINT SUCH AS HONEST LABOR...NOT AT A TIME LIKE THAT! AND SO, NEXT DAY, MAX GARVER BECOMES AN ASSISTANT BEEKEEPER...

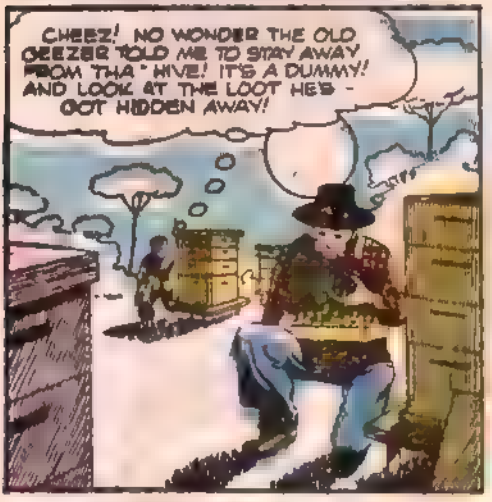
BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR TALKING! HURRY UP WITH THOSE HONEY BOXES! SUN'S BEEN UP AND BURNING FOR TEN MINUTES! BIG DAY AHEAD!
YEAH! (PUFF!)...(PUFF!)... BUT THESE AIN'T LIGHT, YOU KNOW!

IT'S THE KIND OF A DAY THAT SEEMS TO HAVE SIXTY HOURS IN IT... AT LEAST IT FEELS THAT WAY TO MAX AS HE TOSSES AND TURNS IN MUSCULAR DISCOMFORT THAT NIGHT!

OUCH! AND THIS BLASTED SCRATCHY HAY! THE HICK COULD'VE AT LEAST GIVEN ME A REAL BED! - OOOHH! I AIN'T STAYIN' ANOTHER MINUTE!
FERTILIZE

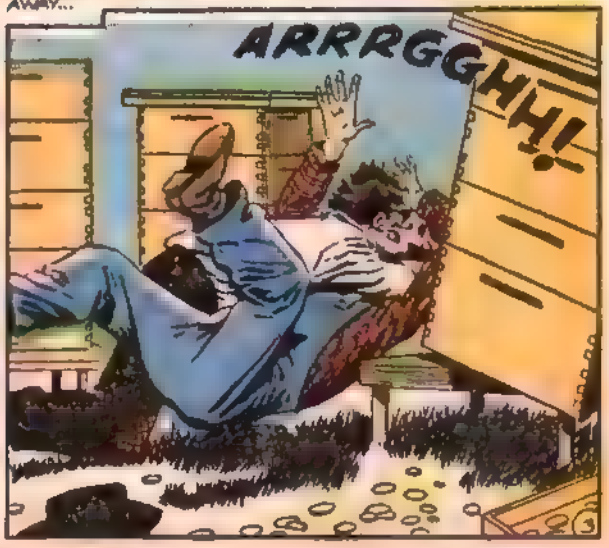
HE EASES OUT OF THE SHED AND FOR A MOMENT, LOOKS AT THE MOONLIGHT-DRENCHED ROWS OF BEEHIVES! THAT'S WHEN HE SEES...

STEALTHILY, HE CREEPS UP ON THE FIGURE OF OLD ABERNATHY! AND WHEN HE SEES WHAT HE'S DOING, THE TRAMP'D AVARICIOUS HEART DOES A FLIP!



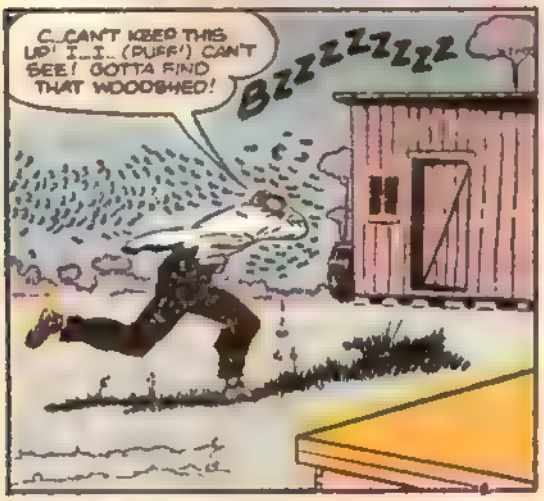
POWERFUL HANDS SEIZE HIS WRISTS AND MAX CARVER FINDS HIMSELF FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!

WITH SUPERHUMAN EFFORT, THE TRAMP PUSHES HIS OPPONENT AWAY...



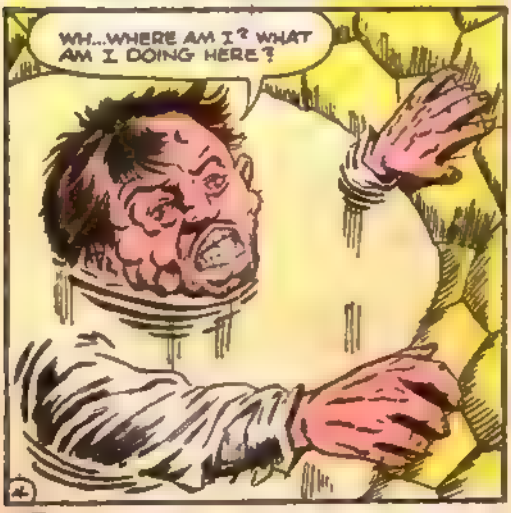
MAX DOESN'T HEAR THE BEEHIVE TOPPLE! ALL HE IS AWARE OF IS THE PAIN IN HIS TORMENTED LUNGS AND THE RELISH WITH WHICH HE KEEPS SQUEEZING THE FARMER'S THROAT...

THEY SWARM IN A ANGRY PURSUIT...ATTACKING, STINGING... FILLING THE AIR WITH DRONING DEATH!

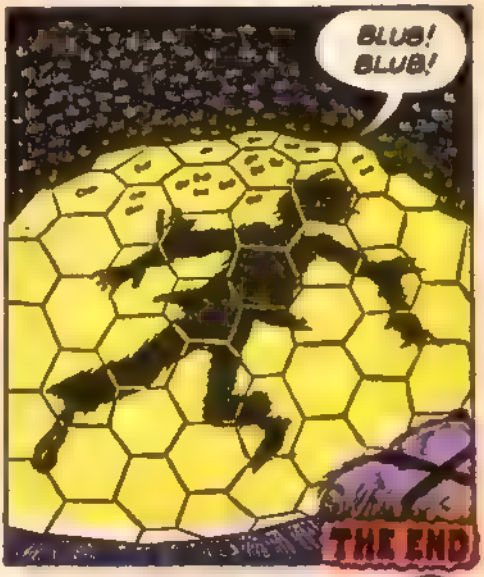


HE GAINS THE WOODSHED AND TRIES DESPERATELY TO CLOSE THE DOOR! TOO LATE! HE STUMBLES AND FALLS! A MILLION NEEDLES STING HIS BODY INTO MERCIFUL UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

HOW LONG WAS HE UNCONSCIOUS? HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING...BUT THERE IS THE SLOW, TERRIBLE WAKING IN A GOLDEN ROOM...



HE CAN'T MOVE! THE GOLDEN, SWEET ROOM HAS IMPRISONED HIM FOR LIFE! MAYBE HE COULD EAT HIS WAY OUT... IF THE SWEET-DRONING BEES WEREN'T SO PATIENTLY ADDING CELLS TO HIS MAUSOLEUM! DEATH CAN BE SWEET!



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

CONTINUED

any more, because Xenophon was now eligible to leave his present abode in Purgatory and move up toward Paradise. He's served his time in Purgatory! But he can't move up unless Loti agrees to stop summoning him forth into the world of the living. Loti thought for a moment and then gave the spirit his answer.

"If you will appear one more time . . . tomorrow night . . . and advise old lady Prentiss to leave her fortune to *me*, for the purpose of building a temple to spiritualism, with the understanding that her body will be enshrined within the temple . . . then I will release you and never summon you forth again!"

Xenophon agreed to the deal, and disappeared. And so it was done the following night. Old lady Prentiss asked how to dispose of her fortune, and Xenophon gave her the answer Loti had prepared. The rest was easy. In the days that followed, Amelia Prentiss made a new will, in which she left her fortune to Loti. And a few days after *that*, the old lady died! If anyone had bothered to examine her body closely, they would have found that someone had injected air bubbles into her blood stream! But the examining physician called it a heart attack. And Loti got his fortune when the will was probated!

Needless to say, Loti had no intention of using the money to construct a temple to spiritualism and enshrine the old lady's body therein! In fact, Loti got greedy for even *more* money and kept on with his seances. And he broke his promise to Xenophon, continuing to summon forth the enraged spirit from the beyond. And there was nothing the spirit could do! Not for a while, that is. But then, one night, Xenophon was ready for his revenge against the greedy medium who was keeping him from moving up from Purgatory into Paradise! On that particular night, Xenophon brought a "friend" along with him!

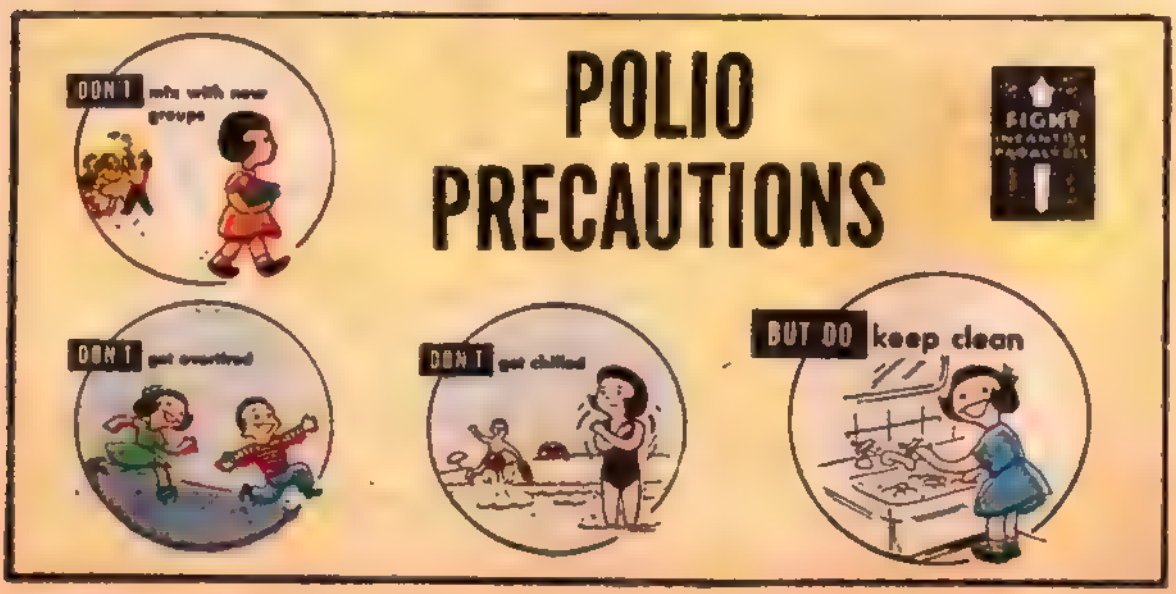
It was the troubled spirit of old lady Prentiss! She was angry with Loti because he had not built the temple as he had promised, and had not enshrined her body in it. The two spirits also brought along a horrible group of hobgoblins, demons, and assorted evil spirits! They danced around Loti, trying to scare him to death . . . and they succeeded! The medium collapsed from fright . . . and died!

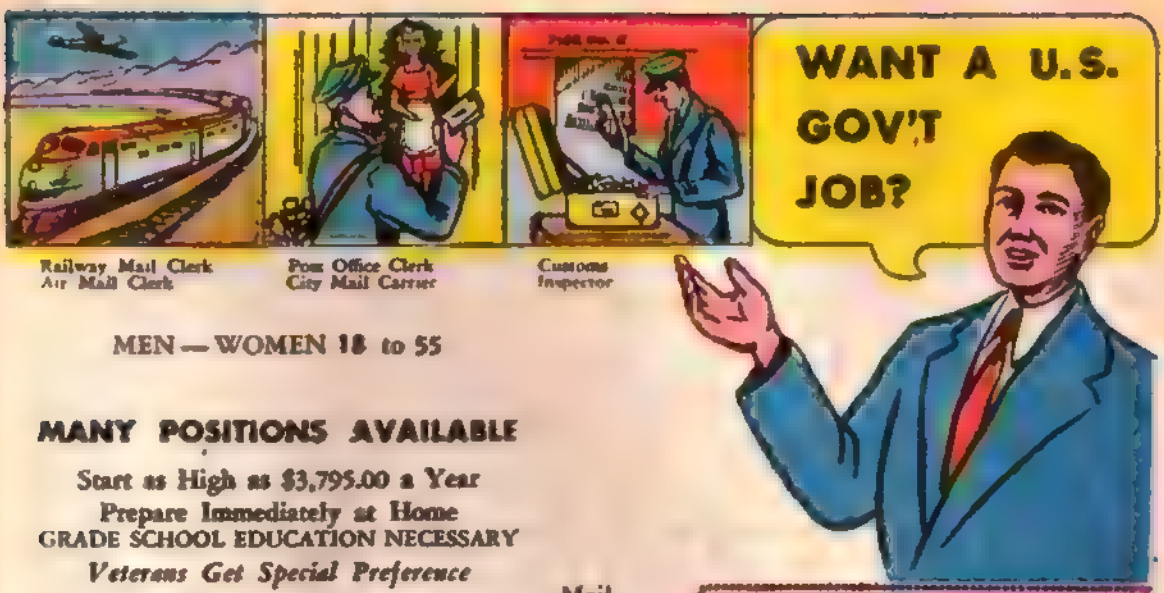
And it was then that his own spirit left his body and was dragged through the "veil" to a place Xenophon called "the crossroads of the beyond"! And as the hobgoblins and demons dragged Loti's agonized spirit down the road toward the Inferno, Xenophon had a parting word for him.

"If you ever make it out of the Inferno to Purgatory, you'll have to take *my* place and serve some nuisance of a spiritualist as an intermediary with the dead! You'll wander restlessly for aeons in Purgatory, as *I* did . . . because, you see, I've recommended you for my old job and you've been accepted! You should make a *good* intermediary for a medium too! You know all about it, in the world of the living . . . and in the land of the dead!"

And, all the agonized Loti could hear was the eerie laughter of the spirit named Xenophon, as Loti went downward . . . downward into the blazing Inferno!

THE END D220





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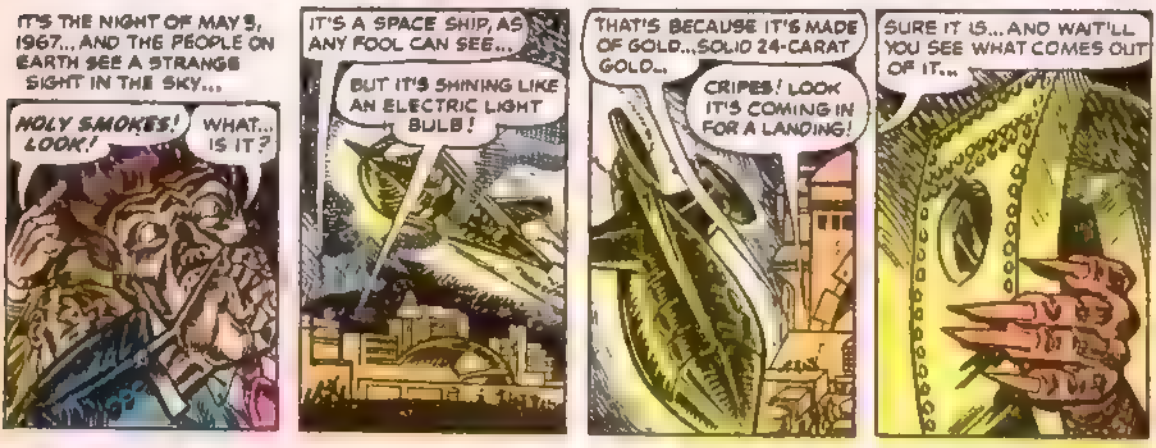
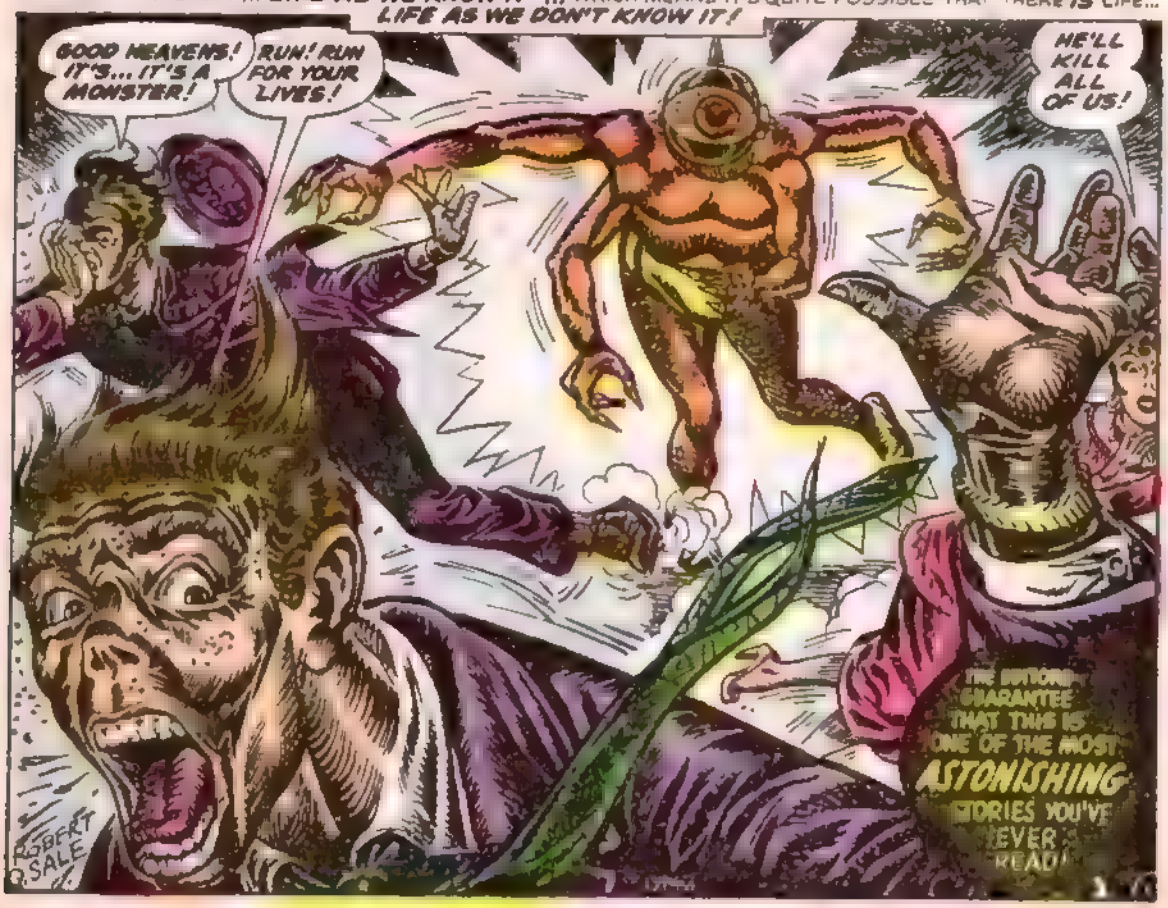
FOR THE WINDUP, HERE'S A "PITCH" ABOUT A WEIRD VISITOR TO OUR WORLD! OH NO, YOU WON'T SEE HIM NOW, IF YOU LOOK OUT THE WINDOW...BUT IF YOU KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, ABOUT 10 OR 15 YEARS FROM NOW, YOU *MIGHT* SEE THIS CREEP *ZO* WALKING DOWN THE STREET!

THE HIDDEN PLANET


IT'S THE NIGHT OF MAY 3, 1967... AND THE PEOPLE ON EARTH SEE A STRANGE SIGHT IN THE SKY...
HOLY SMOKES! LOOK!
WHAT... IS IT?
IT'S A SPACE SHIP, AS ANY FOOL CAN SEE...
BUT IT'S SHINING LIKE AN ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S MADE OF GOLD...SOLID 24-CARAT GOLD...
CRIPES! LOOK IT'S COMING IN FOR A LANDING!
SURE IT IS...AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF IT...

SCIENTISTS SAY THAT LIFE AS WE KNOW IT ISN'T POSSIBLE ON THE OTHER PLANETS! READ THAT CAREFULLY... ESPECIALLY THE PART..."*LIFE AS WE KNOW IT*"... WHICH MEANS IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THERE *IS* LIFE... *LIFE AS WE DON'T KNOW IT!*


GOOD HEAVENS! IT'S... IT'S A MONSTER!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
HE'LL KILL ALL OF US!
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!
ROBERT SALE

HELP! HELP! IT...IT'S GOT ME!
ATTTA' AT TAA!
OH, I'M SORRY! NO WONDER YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ME...I WAS STILL SPEAKING IN ATTALIAN! I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU NOT TO BE FRIGHTENED AND THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HURTING YOU!
I'M ZO...FROM THE PLANET ATTALIA, AND I'VE COME IN PEACE! I'D LIKE TO MEET SOME OF YOUR SCIENTISTS! CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THEM?
Y-YES... S-SURE!!
TEN MINUTES LATER, SOME OF THE NATION'S TOP SCIENTISTS ARE GATHERED AROUND ZO...THE FIRST VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE...
INCREDIBLE!
UNBELIEVABLE!
FANTASTIC!
UGLY CREATURE!
WHAT PLANET DID YOU SAY YOU WERE FROM?
ATTALIA!
ATTALIA? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT!
IT'S A FAKE! HE'S A FAKE! ANOTHER PUBLICITY STUNT!
THE LITTLE GUY WITH THE SOUR THOUGHTS AND REMARKS IS PROFESSOR KROFT, HE'S THE KIND OF GUY VILLAINS ARE MADE OF...
THERE IS NO SUCH PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM... THE WHOLE THING IS A BIG SHAM!
PLEASE, PROFESSOR KROFT, AT LEAST ALLOW THE VISITOR TO TELL US ABOUT HIS PLANET!
I'D BE GLAD TO! WE CALL ATTALIA THE GOLDEN PLANET... BECAUSE IT IS ENTIRELY COMPOSED OF GOLD!
GOLD!! AN ENTIRE PLANET MADE OF GOLD? QUICK, ZO... TELL US MORE!
2

I NOTICE THAT YOUR BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES ARE MADE OF STONE AND STEEL...THEN THEY DON'T LAST VERY LONG, DO THEY?
"THE BUILDINGS ON ATTALIA ARE MADE OF GOLD BRICKS..."
"OUR AUTOMOBILES ARE FASHIONED FROM SHEETS OF SOLID GOLD..."
"AND OUR STREETS ARE PAVED WITH GOLD! EVERY-THING IN ATTALIA LASTS FOREVER"
BUT HOW DO YOU KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM STEALING THE GOLD? DON'T THEY DIG UP THE ROADS AND CHIP AWAY THE BUILDINGS?
OF COURSE NOT! WHY WOULD ANY ATTALIAN DO THAT? GOLD IS THE MOST COMMON THING OF THE PLANET! DO PEOPLE ON EARTH STEAL BRICKS AND DIG UP THE CONCRETE ROADS?
MY SPACE SHIP IS MADE OF GOLD, PROFESSOR... WOULD YOU EVER ATTEMPT TO STEAL IT... JUST FOR THE GOLD?
ME? CERTAINLY! THAT IS... CERTAINLY NOT!
YOU CAN TELL THE PROFESSOR IS LYING, CAN'T YOU? HE'D LIKE TO GET HIS HANDS ON THAT GOLDEN SPACE SHIP... AND HE DOES A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT IT THAT NIGHT IN HIS ROOM...
SURE I COULD STEAL IT! BUT THAT WOULD BE FOOLISH WHEN THERE'S A WHOLE PLANET OF GOLD SOMEWHERE OUT IN SPACE JUST WAITING TO BE PLUCKED!
AND WITH THE HELP OF THAT STUPID AND UGLY CREATURE ZO...I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DO THE PLUCKING!
3

PROFESSOR KROFT TIPTOES INTO ZO'S ROOM...
HE SNEAKS UP TO THE BED...
GREAT SCOTT! IT... IT'S EMPTY! HE'S GONE!
NO, PROFESSOR KROFT, HERE I AM! WE HAVE NO NIGHT ON ATTALIA, SO WE DO NOT SLEEP!
YOU WILL SLEEP FOR ALL ETERNITY, ZO, IF YOU DON'T DO AS I SAY!
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO GO OUT TO THE SPACE SHIP, PROFESSOR?
BECAUSE YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE A TRIP TO ATTALIA... YOUR GOLDEN PLANET!
HALT! SORRY, PROFESSOR KROFT! ORDERS ARE NOT TO LET ANY MORE NEAR THE SPACE SHIP!
BUT I HAVE A SPECIAL PASS, GUARD!
AND HERE IT IS!
YOU... YOU KILLED HIM, PROFESSOR... FOR WHAT?
FOR THE GOLD ON ATTALIA... AND I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T GET THIS SPACE SHIP ALOFT IMMEDIATELY!
ZO OBEYS THE PROFESSOR... AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE GOLDEN SPACE SHIP BLASTS OFF INTO SPACE WITH A MIGHTY ROAR...

ZO'S SPACE SHIP SPEEDS THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF SPACE LIKE A COMET!

FOR HOURS IT THUNDERS PAST STARS AND ASTEROIDS AND SPACE JUNK... AND THE PROFESSOR BEGINS TO PERSPIRE WITH THE HEAT AND EXCITEMENT!

HOW MUCH LONGER, ZO?

SOON, PROFESSOR, SOON!

ANOTHER HOUR AND THE PROFESSOR IS DRENCHED WITH PERSPIRATION...

IT'S HOTTER THAN HADES IN HERE!

ANOTHER HOUR... AND THE PROFESSOR'S BODY GLOWS WITH THE HEAT..

YOU SAID IT'D BE "SOON" HOURS AGO, ZO... IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME, I'LL...

THERE IT IS, PROFESSOR! THERE'S THE PLANET I'M FROM!

WHERE? LET ME SEE! OH, NO! NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

IT'S THE SUN!

YOU CAN'T BE FROM THE SUN! THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE OF THE SUN IS SIX THOUSAND DEGREES... NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THAT GREAT HEAT, YOU UGLY FOOL!

TURN BACK BEFORE WE'RE BURNED ALIVE! THAT'S THE SUN.. THE HOT BURNING SUN!

IT MAY BE THE SUN TO YOU, PROFESSOR KROFT, AND PERHAPS YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT...

BUT I CAN... AND WE CALL THIS ATTALIA... THE GOLDEN PLANET! IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME AGAIN!

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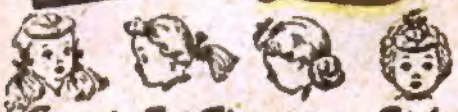

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AMAZINGLY LIFE-LIKE! So perfectly molded her arms and legs are enchantingly dimpled.

She's like a REAL baby—she's a REAL bargain!

© 1953 Nivek, Inc., 4757 Ravenswood, Chicago 40, Ill.

CURLS
WAVES
COMBS
WASHES

BIG as a baby

COMMENDED PARENTS

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

SEND NO MONEY

Nivek Industries, Inc. Dept. BD-109
4757 Ravenswood Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.

Rush amazing "Baby Blue Eyes" doll with Saran hair and Mystic Skin, Vanity Set, Curlers and Hair Style Booklet at $5.95 plus C.O.D. postage. Full purchase price refunded if not 100% satisfied.

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Send COD plus postage
☐ Send heart-shaped gold finish locket necklace to fit doll or little girl, only 50c extra.
☐ To save postage I enclose $5.95—ship prepaid. ☐ $6.45—include necklace.
Check hair style desired: ☐ Long wavy ☐ Long braids

YES PAL! IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY YOU Can Become an All-Around, All-American HE-MAN Like We Did!

WE WERE SKINNY WRECKS Like YOU!

BEFORE
We Mailed Coupon

YOU TOO CAN BECOME An AMAZING NEW HE-MAN
If You Mail Coupon NOW

AFTER
We Mailed Coupon

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!
Mail Coupon Below

Hi SKINNY

—they used to say before I took the Jowett Course. I was run down, anemic, ashamed in a bathing suit. Now I have added 30 lbs. of steel-strong muscle —6" to my arms— 10" to my chest. Jowett has given me a new body that is the envy of the neighborhood.

Ken Grimm
Chicago, Ill.

SICKLY GRIMM BEFORE

KEN GRIMM AFTER Full of Pep and Power

KEN is NOW a HEAD-to-TOE HE-MAN as you can be soon

I gained 70 lbs of mighty muscle!

You can be me in a matter of weeks through Jowett training. You can win a BIG SILVER TROPHY as I did. I went from SKINNY, puny 90 lbs. to this All-American HE-MAN. NOW it looks like I'll make the football team just like you can too.

Rochester, N. Y.

CLEVELAND BEFORE 90 lb. Skeleton

GLEASON R. CLEVELAND AFTER 160-lb. He-Man Athletic, Popular, A Success with Men and Girls!

In 10 Minutes of Fun A Day I Changed From a SKINNY WEAKLING to a MIGHTY MAN

I gained 49 lbs.—added 7" to my chest—3" to each arm. WITH ONE hand I can now lift overhead a boy weighing 145 pounds. Jowett gives you muscle quality as well as quantity. Mail the ALL-FREE Coupon below as I did.

Arkansas

JACKSON BEFORE

JOBIE JACKSON AFTER 90 Days!

MAN! aren't YOU as SICK and tired as I and thousands of MIGHTY JOWETT HE-MEN were of being SKINNY OR FLABBY?

IN which of the above groups does YOUR BODY belong? The 3 scrawny and flabby fellows on the top are the SAME fellows as the 3 HUSKIES on the bottom! YOUR PHOTO can soon belong to the HE-MAN GROUP . . .

COME ON, PAL, NOW

YOU CAN WIN $100

AND A BIG 15" tall SILVER CUP!

Let me make YOU an ALL-AROUND HE-MAN as I made these former SKINNY and FLABBY WEAKLINGS

Then, Come on, Pal, do as they did! Give me 10 Pleasant Minutes a Day and I'll give YOU a NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are; if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions.

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll gain SOLIDITY, SIZE, POWER, SPEED! You'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN, a WINNER in everything you tackle—or my Training won't cost you one single cent!

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!

Friend, I've traveled the world. Made a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body. Then I devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER" the only method that builds you 5-ways fast. You save YEARS, DOLLARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like these champs did . . . Like MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO . . .

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET ALL 5 FREE PICTURE-PACKED COURSES Millions Have Been Sold for $1 And More
Send 10c for Postage & Handling

How to Build A MIGHTY CHEST
How to Build MIGHTY LEGS
How to Build MIGHTY ARMS
How to Build A MIGHTY BACK
How to Build A MIGHTY GRIP

PLUS FREE PHOTO BOOK HOW to Achieve Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron

How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN

LAST CHANCE — ALL FREE COUPON!
1. Photo Book of STRONG MEN
2. MUSCLE METER 3. FIVE COURSES

Dept. MA-311

"Jowett Courses greatest in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" —R. P. Kelley Physical Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs—Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).
Tell me How to WIN $100 and a big Silver Trophy.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

Get PRIZES ... make money this Easy Way

JOIN thousands of boys and girls who get fine prizes like these every year. Many prizes shown here and dozens of others in our Big Prize Book are GIVEN WITHOUT A CENT OF COST for selling one order of 24 Christmas Packs at 25c each. Some prizes require extra money as stated. Many boys and girls sell the packs in one day and get their prize AT ONCE. You can, too.

It's easy to sell these pretty Christmas Packs to your family, friends, and neighbors. Each Pack contains 4 Christmas Cards, 4 envelopes and 32 sparkling Christmas Seals in brilliant colors—40 pieces for 25c. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize from the Big Prize Book, or keep $2.00 cash on each 24-pack order you sell.

Mail coupon TODAY for one order of Christmas Packs and Big Prize Book showing more than 70 thrilling prizes. SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.
American Specialty Co., Dept. 306, Lancaster, Pa.

70 GREAT PRIZES TO CHOOSE FROM

Basketball Outfit • Cork Gun
Girls' Shoulder Strap Handbag
Complete Fishing Outfit
Dial Typewriter

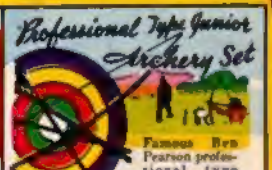
Daisy's Red Ryder Air Rifle
Dick Tracy Camera
Cinderella Wrist Watch
Roy Rogers Binoculars
Ukulele with Arthur Godfrey's famous player
Boys' Radium Dial Wrist Watch • Woodburning Set
Movie Projector • Phonograph

Crystal Radio Kit
Printing Press • Roller Skates
Identification Bracelet
Ready-to-fly Jet Airplane
Gene Autry Guitar
Electric Jeep
Official Size Football

and many more

Here it is . . . GOLDEN TRUMPET
Heavy gold-plated, over 13" long! Play bugle calls, marches, songs . . . (without lessons). Carrying case included. Sell only one order.

BOYS', GIRLS' WRIST WATCHES
Dale Evans Bracelet Watch for girls. Sell one order plus $2.50.
Roy Rogers Cowboy Watch for boys. Sell one order plus $1.50.



Famous Ben Pearson professional type Archery Outfit. Includes 54 inch handsomely finished hardwood bow, 4 feathered arrows, target-face, instructions. Sell one order plus 50c.

A GREAT FLASH CAMERA OUTFIT
Flash camera, 4 bulbs, batteries and film, all given. Takes pictures in black and white or color. Sell one order plus $1.50 extra.

CHEMISTRY SET
Famous Chemcraft Set for interesting experiments, with book of Chemical Magic. Sell one order

PRETTY TRAVEL CASE
Girls will love this handy overnight case with removable tray. Has mirror, lock and key. Sell one order plus 75c.

GOLD-PLATED LOCKET SET
Beautiful 24K gold-plated Locket Set. Matching expansion bracelet. Each locket holds 2 photos. Sell one order plus 50c.

MOVIE VIEWER
See Walt Disney cartoons, cowboy films, sports, comedies, with this movie viewer. Sell one order.

BOYS! GIRLS!
Win a Super Deluxe Schwinn Phantom Bicycle

Yes, your first order for Christmas Packs will bring complete details explaining how you can make your dream come true . . . a famous Schwinn bike for you.

Send No Money! Paste Coupon on postcard or mail it in envelope today!

ELECTRONIC WALKIE TALKIE

Remco's complete 2-way talking system. Patterned after U.S. Army equipment. Just string out wire—start talking. No batteries needed. Sell one order.

A GREAT KNIFE OUTFIT

Husky hunting knife plus 4 blade camp knife. Both given in double leather belt sheath. Given for selling just one order.

JUNIOR SPORTS KIT
A complete kit for younger boys or girls. Touch football, 21" basketball, rubber baseball, referee's whistle. All given for selling just one order.

COWBOY JR. GUITAR

Ideal for beginners. Complete instructions with song book. Nylon strings. Sell one order plus 50c.

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD—START TODAY

MAIL COUPON TODAY

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO.
Dept. 306, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 24 Christmas Packs. I will resell them at 25c each, send you the money, and choose my prize.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____